(e) The Government of India has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for taking up critical flood control and anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) which includes Rs. 150 crore as Central assistance for Assam and North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal. The scheme has been approved "in principle" by Planning Commission and the appraisal note has also been issued for discussion by the Expenditure Finance Committee and the scheme will thereafter be posed for approval of Full Planning Commission/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Further an additional amount of Rs. 42.00 crore has been earmarked for Brahmaputra Board for execution of critical flood management schemes in Assam and other North Eastern States during 10th Five Year Plan.

Germany's help for river linking project

1022. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought German expertise in the project for linking major rivers in India;

(b) if so, the details of help Germany has rendered or propose to render to Government to link major rivers;

(c) whether the target of linking major rivers would be completed as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The initiation and completion of actual work of linking of rivers depends on various important issues such as completion of Detailed Project Report, Cooperation from all the concerned States as well as neighbouring countries particularly Nepal and Bhutan and availability of funds.